

Group IV, claims 14 and 15;

Group V, claims 16-21;

Group VI, claims 22 and 23;

Group VII, claim 24;

Group VIII, claim 25;

Group IX, claim 26;

Group X, claims 27 and 28;

Group XI, claim 29; and

Group XII, claim 30.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group V, claims 16-21. In response to the requirement for election of species, Applicants elect the species of claim 19.

Applicants respectfully traverse the requirement for restriction as being unduly burdensome. Applicants have presented only 30 claims -- all of which are drawn to inter-related apparatuses and methods -- yet the Examiner has required restriction into 12 separate inventions! If Applicants were to file divisional applications directed to each of the 11 inventions that are non-elected in the present application, the basic filing fees alone would amount to over \$8000! It is respectfully submitted that the burden on the PTO in terms of examining the

various claimed aspects of the present invention in a single application (or perhaps in two or three applications) does not justify the burden imposed on Applicants by the requirement for restriction as it is presently stated. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reformulate the requirement for restriction to make it less burdensome, for instance by combining Group IV with Group II, combining Groups III, V, VI, VII, and X together, and combining Groups VIII, IX, XI, and XII together.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Richard Gallagher (Reg. No. 28,781) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees

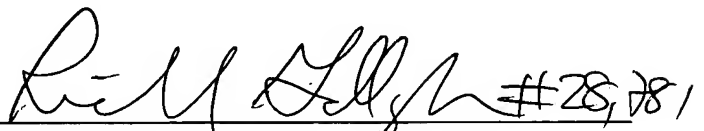
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required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17;
particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By

 #28,781
Joe McKinney Muncy, #32,334


KM/RG:gml
0011-0382P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000